

City Page

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Transportation center renovations part of light rail improvements

Construction crews will soon begin a year-long renovation of the Charlotte Transportation Center (CTC), located at 310 East Trade Street in Center City, in order to prepare for light rail service beginning in Fall 2007.

The renovations include installing an elevator and staircases to connect customers to the light rail platform above the Center and new office space for security personnel. CATS' Customer Service will be moving into the center of the CTC to be more convenient for customers. The vacant Carolinas Medical Center space on the Fourth Street side of the CTC will be converted into office space for Special Transportation Services (STS), customer service and station managers. A new bus operators' lounge also will be part of the space.

To learn more about CATS and its services, call 704-336-RIDE or visit www.ridetransit.org.

Have your say in Design of Cultural Arts Facilities

As a part of the planning process for four cultural facilities included in the First Street Wachovia Project, Wachovia and the City of Charlotte have scheduled a public input session Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m. in room 267 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 E. 4th Street.

The four cultural facilities included in the project are - the Afro-American Cultural Center, the Mint Museum, the Bechtler Art Museum, and a 1,200 Seat Theater. The project also includes an office tower, retail space, residential units, and the Wake Forest School of Business. The project is located on South Tryon at First Street.

Architects of the four proposed cultural facilities will be available to discuss the project and solicit community input.

Take a tour, give us your thoughts

Solid Waste Services currently is updating its website and wants your feedback in creating an engaging and educational online resource.

Take a tour of the site where you will find:

- Solid waste preparation basics
- Entertaining and educational articles that explain why item preparation is so important and the benefits of homeownership in Charlotte
- Resources for teachers and property owners

Visit <http://curbit.charmeck.org> to take a tour and the survey.

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The City of Charlotte Solid Waste Services is not your ordinary solid waste program. In addition to quality, efficient and cost-effective collection, Solid Waste Services offers:

- Specialized presentations through our [Speakers Bureau](#)
- [Resources](#) for neighborhoods, educators, homeowners.
- Online scheduling for [bulky items](#)
- [Answers](#) to your service-related questions.



From l to r: Matthew Old, stepson of Steven Azzarella, SW Special Services; Jesse Furmanek, daughter of Martin Furmanek, SW Collections; and Chelsea Williams (front), daughter of Pearl Williams, SW Customer Service Section

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Your Opinion Counts! Tell us what you think about the quality of information on our website in the box below:

Charlotte Enters the Winner's Circle, Wins Bid for NASCAR Hall of Fame

The City of Charlotte pulled away from its competitors to win the checkered flag in its bid to become home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame. The city's proposal, racing history and fan base served as the basis for the winning proposal. Those three components, coupled with the following facts and figures, made Charlotte the obvious choice for the Hall of Fame:

- 62 racing teams in the state of North Carolina, with 90% in the Charlotte area
- 10 race tracks within 60 miles of Charlotte. Add on another 10 tracks within 120 miles
- 1.25 million racing fans visit the region every year
- 24,000 jobs are held by motor sports employees who live in the Charlotte region
- 73% of all motorsports employees in the US live and work in the region
- \$6.1 billion impact in North Carolina

The Groundbreaking for the Hall of Fame will be in 2007.

There are no property taxes or other general fund revenues in the deal to construct the \$150 million facility. In addition, the taxes being used (i.e., the existing room occupancy tax dedicated to convention center facilities and the new 2% room occupancy tax associated with the Hall of Fame) are dedicated to specific hospitality purposes and cannot be used for general citywide purposes such as community safety and transportation.

- \$102.5 million in Certificates of Participation ("COPs") financing supported by the new NASCAR Hall of Fame dedicated 2% hotel/motel room occupancy tax
- \$20 million of land value contributed by the State of North Carolina
- \$13 million in COPs financing supported by the existing hotel/motel room occupancy tax dedicated to convention center facilities
- \$2.5 million in COPs financing for the optional 400 additional parking spaces supported by the existing hotel/motel room occupancy tax dedicated to convention center facilities
- \$5 million from the State and \$6 million from the City to reconfigure the South Caldwell Street/I-277 interchange, reimbursed to both through sale of excess land

Bank of America and Wachovia agreed to make two loans, totaling \$41.5 at a below-market interest rate of 4% (simple interest) and are non-recourse to the City and CRVA (i.e., the City and CRVA are not liable for any deficiency in repayment).

Groundbreaking for the Hall of Fame will be in 2007 with expected completion in 2010. For more information on the NASCAR Hall of Fame visit, www.belongshere.com.

Light rail facility construction in full swing


Construction crews are busily preparing the new home for Charlotte's rapid transit service, LYNX. The

LYNX is the new brand for CATS rapid transit service.

Commission meeting. "At its core, CATS' rapid transit service, LYNX, is about connecting people, connecting to employment, connecting to entertainment and connecting communities," said Ron Tober, Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte Area Transit System.

LYNX is the beginning of a whole new branding strategy at CATS. The branding strategy was developed through interviews of elected officials, businesses and community leaders, and by conducting focus groups of customers and non-riders. "People told us in focus groups that if we did not create a brand, that people would create their own name for the light rail line," said Olaf Kinard, Marketing & Communications Manager. "In product development an organization clearly needs to determine their own destiny and we needed to develop a brand identity for the rapid transit services."

To learn more about CATS and transit planning, please call 704-336-RIDE or visit www.ridetransit.org.

CHARLOTTE.